Mercury pollution

1873. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up 50 Mercury Disposal Centres across the country to stop mercury pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the step being taken to stop mercury pollution?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) For evolving policy for safe management of mercury from Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) including safety in manufacture, usage and disposal and creation of public awareness a Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 14.8.2007. A Technical Committee has also been constituted by the Central Pollution Control Board on 27th August, 2007 to recommend measures, standards and guidelines for safe usage and disposal of CFLs.

Pamba action plan

1874. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which Pamba Action Plan in the State of Kerala was approved by Union Government;

(b) the details of the Action Plan;

(c) the details of implementation till date; and

(d) the reasons for the inordinate delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The project for abatement of pollution of River Pamba at Sabrimala and Pamba in Kerala was approved for an amount of Rs. 18.45 crore as Pamba Action Plan under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in May, 2003. The works included under the Plan are; construction of sewage treatment plants, bathing ghats, community toilets and solid waste management. The Central and State Government's share in the project cost is Rs.12.92 crore and Rs.5.53 crore. Against the Central share, funds amounting to Rs.1.75 crore have been released to Government of Kerala for execution of approved works. The State Government has reported an expenditure of about Rs.85.0 lakhs only towards implementation of the plan. The execution of sanctioned work is slow on account of non-availability of forests land. According to State Government, the process of acquisition of land is in progress.

Contamination of Yamuna

1875. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water of Yamuna river is contaminated to such an extent that it is harmful even to sericulture and vegetables irrigated by its water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that only treated water from sewage is allowed to reach, Yamuna in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the target set to complete this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the Central Pollution Control Board, the entire Yamuna river from its origin *i.e.* Yamnotri to its confluence with river Ganga at Allahabad is not entirely contaminated. However, a few stretches of river Yamuna are contaminated due to disposal of waste water from industries and domestic sewage. The water quality is deteriorated at polluted stretches from Wazirabad to Etawah due to higher bio-chemical oxygen demand value. As per primary water quality criteria, the river water at polluted stretches is considered to be fit for the purpose of irrigation.

(c) and (d) According to the information made available by the Delhi Jal Board to ensure discharge of treated effluent into the river Yamuna, it is envisaged to implement the works namely, laying of interceptor sewers along major drains, augmentation of sewage treatment plants, interception of small drains, rehabilitation of trunk sewers and construction of additional sewage treatment plants in a time bound manner.

In addition Yamuna Action Plans (YAP) have been taken up by Government of India with the assistance of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in a phased manner for undertaking pollution abatement works in the river Yamuna. Under the phase-I of YAP launched in April, 1993, 753.25 million litres per day (mld) of sewage treatment capacity was created, of which 30 mld in Delhi. YAP-I was declared closed in February, 2003.

Under the YAP-II, which commenced in December, 2004 at an approved cost of Rs. 624 crore, major portion of the outlay *i.e.* Rs. 387.17 crores, has been allocated to Delhi. A sewage treatment capacity of 135 mld is proposed to be created under YAP-II in Delhi. In addition, projects for the rehabilitation of 324 mld treatment capacity and rehabilitation/laying of trunk sewers for a length of 30.82 kms. are also envisaged under the YAP-II.

Giving degraded forest land to industries

†1876. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that less fertile or degraded forest land is proposed to be given to the industries on contract basis;

(b) if so, the terms thereof;

(c) whether industries would safeguard bio-diversity;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.